

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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R 101348Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 873

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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USIA WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 8440

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE, XF

SUBJECT: DECEMBER 10 SYRIAN MEDIA REVIEW

1. MEDIA FOCUSED ON APPOINTMENT OF AL-HUSS CABINET IN LEBANON AND UNGA VOTE REQUESTING GENEVA MEPC BE RECONVENED. CONCERNING LEBANON, PRESS HEADLINED: "ANNOUNCEMENT OF FORMATION OF NEW LEBANESE CABINET COMPRISING EIGHT MEMBERS, INCLUDING HEAD OF GOVERNMENT. MAIN TASK OF CABINET IS RECONSTRUCTION OF NEW LEBANON. SARKIS DISCUSSED WITH AL-HAJJ WEAPONS COLLECTION PLAN." PRESS ARTICLE ADDED THAT LEBANESE PARLIAMENT MET FOR FIRST TIME IN FOUR WEEKS

2. AL SECGEN RIYAD IN SPECIAL INTERVIEW WITH SANA'S CAIRO CORRESPONDENT STRESSED CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE OF SYRIA IN LEBANON.

3. AL-BAATH COLUMNIST OPINED THAT CLIMATE OF SECURITY AND STABILITY PREVAILING IN LEBANON UNDER ADF AUSPICES
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WILL ENABLE NEW GOVERNMENT TO MOVE QUICKLY TO ACHIEVE

TANGIBLE STEPS. HE PRAISED COMPETENCE OF MINISTERS IN THEIR FIELDS AND NOTED SARKIS' DETERMINATION TO PERSIST IN EFFORTS TO RECONSTRUCT LEBANON.

4. CONCERNING ARAB-ISRAEL DEVELOPMENTS, PRESS BANNERED: " IMPORTANT VICTORY FOR ARAB SOLIDARITY AT UN. GENERAL ASSEMBLY CALLS FOR CONVENING OF GENEVA CONFERENCE, CONDEMNS ISRAEL AND ENDORSES ARAB GOALS OF CURRENT STAGE."

5. DAMASCUS RADIO REPORTED PRES. ASAD, WHEN HE LEARNED OF PRES. SADAT'S COLD, PHONED TO RESCHEDULE CAIRO MEETING NOW PLANNED FOR DECEMBER 18.

6. PRESS CITED ARAFAT INTERVIEW IN TIME MAGAZINE CALLING FOR PARTICIPATION OF PALESTINIANS AT GENEVA MEPC, EXPRESSING REGRET AT US STAND ON OPENING OF PLO OFFICE IN WASHINGTON AND VOICING HOPE PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER WILL EXHIBIT MORE UNDERSTANDING TOWARD PALESTINIAN CAUSE.

7. AL-THAWRAH COLUMNIST REITERATED THAT "SYRIA IS VERY SERIOUS IN ITS QUEST FOR PEACE. NEVERTHELESS, IT IS HIGH TIME TO TAKE ACTIVE AND DECISIVE MEASURES" TO ENSURE TOTAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL AND SECURE PALESTINIAN RIGHTS.
MURPHY

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